

LESSON XXXV.

Spell and define—

CO'GENT, powerful, forcible.
 THE'O-RY, explanation of principles.
 FAL'LA-CY, mistake, deception.
 GEN-O-ESE', an inhabitant of Genoa.
 A-CHIEVED', accomplished.

FRI-VOL'I-TY, thoughtless trifling.
 JEER'ING, mocking, scoffing.
 FI-NAN'CES, funds belonging to the public treasury.
 PRE-SENT'I-MENT, firm belief or opinion.

QUEEN ISABELLA'S RESOLVE.

Isabella of Spain—Don Gomez—Columbus.

Isabella. And so, Don Gomez, it is your conclusion that we ought to dismiss the proposition of this worthy Genoese.

Don Gomez. His scheme, your majesty, seems to me fanciful in the extreme; but I am a plain, matter-of-fact man, and do not see visions and dream dreams, like some.

Isa. And yet Columbus has given us cogent reasons for believing that it is practicable to reach the eastern coast of India by sailing in a westerly direction.

Don G. Admitting that his theory is correct—namely, that the earth is a sphere—how would it be possible for him to return if he once descended that sphere in the direction he proposes? Would not the coming back be all uphill? Could a ship accomplish it with even the most favorable wind?

Columbus. Will your majesty allow me to suggest that if the earth is a sphere, the same laws of adhesion and motion must operate at every point on its surface; and the objection of Don Gomez would be quite as valid against our being able to return from crossing the Strait of Gibraltar.

Don G. This gentleman, then, would have us believe the monstrous absurdity that there are people on the earth